



HONORS AND ENRICHMENT PROGRAMS PROUDLY PRESENTS

# 2022 STEM SCHOLAR SENIOR SHOWCASE

Program of Events

**UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT  
STUDENT UNION THEATER  
APRIL 20, 2022 | 5PM**

<https://honors.uconn.edu/stem-scholar-senior-showcase-2022/>

# PROGRAM



## **5:00 PM**

Welcome Message

by Dr. Coral Fernandez-Illescas  
Honors STEM Scholar Advisor

## **5:10 PM**

Dr. Jennifer Lease Butts  
Associate Vice Provost for  
Enrichment Programs, Director of the  
Honors Program

## **5:20 PM**

STEM Scholar Pitches - Group 1

## **5:40 PM**

STEM Scholar Pitches - Group 2

## **6:00 PM**

STEM Scholar Community Highlights

## **6:05 PM**

STEM Scholar Pitches - Group 3

## **6:25 PM**

STEM Scholar Pitches - Group 4

## **6:45 PM**

STEM Scholar Pitches - Group 5

## **6:55 PM**

Closing Remarks

by Dr. Coral Fernandez-Illescas  
Honors STEM Scholar Advisor

# PITCH GROUP 1



## **MOHSIN MIRZA**

*Evaluating Antimicrobial Surface Modifications With Quaternary Ammonium Compounds on Industry Materials*

## **MEHREEN PASHA**

*When Problems Become Solutions: Harnessing the Osteogenic Capacity of Disease-Causing Stem Cells to Repair Bone Fractures*

## **REINIER A. GONZÁLEZ HEREDIA**

*Structure, Regulation and Function of VISTA as a novel immunotherapy ligand*

## **CALLISTA LAJEUNE**

*Comparing SARS-CoV-2 Antibody Tests from Quest Diagnostics and Jackson Laboratories Utilized to Identify MIS-C Patients*

## **RANITA MURIEL**

*Injuries Sustained by Pediatric Motor Vehicle Accident Victims*

## **ROSHNI MEHTA**

*Who Let the DoGs Out? An Analysis of RNA Transcription Readthrough and Termination*

## **MARISSA ALBA NACLERIO**

*Tracking Changes in Greenness in a Mangrove Forest Following Hurricane Irma in the Florida Everglades*

# PITCH GROUP 1 CONTINUED



## **JESSICA BERRY**

*Maternal Perceptions Regarding Care of their Infants with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome*

## **TAWANA GRAY**

*Diabetic persons experiencing homelessness admitted to a medical respite program*

## **CAMERON CIANCI**

*Lattice Chiral Effective Theory*

## **NICOLE KHUSID**

*Multimessenger Gravitational Wave Signals from Strongly Lensed Supermassive Black Hole Binaries*

# PITCH GROUP 2



## **ASHLEY KOVACH**

*The Atypical Antipsychotic Cariprazine Induced Motivational Impairments in an Animal Model of Avolition: Implications for the Treatment of Schizophrenia*

## **ARNAV SHARMA**

*Exploring the Frontiers of Nanopore Sequencing in Food Safety*

## **ADITI SIRSIKAR**

*Screening for Depression in Young Adults with Autism Spectrum Disorder*

## **BHAVANA GUNDA**

*Investigating the Role of SNRNP70 in the Splicing and Expression of Minor Intron-Containing Genes*

## **QINGLI HU**

*Case Study: Effects of Ultrasonic Vocalizations on Rat Behavior and Place Cell Remapping in the Hippocampus*

## **MALAVIKA MADAN**

*Drug Delivery Systems of Glioblastoma Multiforme*

## **SUCIKA PERUMALLA**

*Behavioral Response to Changing Emotional Environment: Effects of Dorsal Hippocampus Inactivation*

# PITCH GROUP 2 CONTINUED



## **SHREYA SREENIVAS**

*Using Co-occurrence Analysis to Explain How Researchers Study Emotional Well-Being*

## **SABAA FAYAZI**

*Neurophysiology of Sleep*

## **AMISHA PAUL**

*Understanding Ventricular-Subventricular Zone Development: Neural Stem Cell Lineage Tracing and Structural Configuration Modeling*

## **JAMIE MASTHAY**

*Characterization of the Catecholamine Uptake Inhibitor Bupropion and the Opioid Antagonist Naltrexone, Alone and in Combination, on Binge-Like Eating Behavior*

## **SAMANTHA BALLAS**

*The Importance of Health Anxiety And Emotional Reasoning to Understand Vaccine Hesitancy and Safety Behaviors: Implications for Public Health Campaigns in a COVID\_19 Era*

# PITCH GROUP 3



## **JULIA QUINN**

*Determination of the Timing of Post-Mitotic Read-through Transcription by RNA Polymerase II*

## **KHALEEL RAHMAN**

*Can Satire Impact Sustainability Perceptions Among Undergraduates?*

## **NATHAN SCHAUMBURGER**

*Exploring the Mechanisms of Anthocyanin Patterning Development in Mimulus Parishii*

## **NAILAH HUTCHINSON**

*Modeling Tools for NBA Data: An Analysis of Certain Measures to Determine a NBA Team's Overall Performance*

## **MANSI DHOND**

*A Novel Combination of Seaweed Farming and Aquaculture to Maximize Carbon Sequestration and Promote Food Sustainability*

## **JONATHAN RUCINSKI**

*Analysis of Flow Stress Data of Ti-6Al-4V for Application in Simulations*

## **DANIEL SIMMONS**

*Additive Manufacturing and Mechanical Evaluation of Fiber-Reinforced Structures*

# PITCH GROUP 3 CONTINUED



## **NATHAN WETHERELL**

*Optimization of Orbital Trajectories Using NeuroEvolution of Augmenting Topologies*

## **ANDREW CHRISTENSON**

*Utilizing Computational and Experimental Methods to Evaluate the Biomechanics of Heading in Soccer*

## **CHRIS JOHN**

*Triggering Thermal Runaway in Lithium-ion Batteries*

## **RACHIT KUMBALAPARAMBIL**

*Inverted Pendulum Sensors and Mechanical Components Analysis*



# PITCH GROUP 4



## **SAUMYA SHAH**

*Alterations of the gut mycobiome in patients with multiple sclerosis: a bioinformatic approach*

## **NEHA ANDE**

*Image Recognition Using a Siamese Neural Network*

## **ADITI DUBEY**

*Predicting The Political Polarity Of Twitters Regarding Vaccine Passports*

## **ADITYA DUBEY**

*A Machine Learning and Deep Learning Framework for Binary, Ternary, and Multiclass Emotion Classification of Covid-19 Vaccine-Related Tweets*

## **JACOB LENES**

*The assistance of Applied Introduction to Cryptography, as well as Cyber Security Academia*

## **ANUSHA NAGELLA**

*Detecting Depression Dialogue on Twitter*

## **CHLOÉ BECQUEY**

*A Deep Learning Approach to Detecting Breast Cancer from Mammograms*

# PITCH GROUP 4 CONTINUED



## **RAJVI PARIKH**

*Spotlight on Defibrotide Sodium as a Treatment Option for Adults with Hepatic VOD: Design, Development, and Place in Therapy*

## **MITCHELL JOHNSON**

*Smart, Efficient and Light Solar Microgrid Inverter*

## **GARRETT ZEILINGER**

*Viability of Bidirectional Wireless Power Transfer with Application to Unmanned Underwater Vehicle Battery Systems*

# PITCH GROUP 5



## **LAVAR JOHNSON**

*Feasibility and Usefulness of Evidence-Based Gaming to Deliver Health Messages to Tweens in a Classroom Setting.*

## **MEHAK SHARMA**

*A Narrative Review: Pharmacy Intervention Fidelity*

## **ERIC ZEIBERG**

*3D Esophageal Model for Testing Novel Surgical Stapling Technology*

## **LING CHI**

*Device and Mobile App Development for Retinal Diagnosis*

## **JENNIFER FIELD**

*A Human Factors Approach to the Optimization of Prostheses for K3 and K4 Amputees*

## **BRADLEY STUTZMAN**

*Surrogate Modeling of Chemical Processes using Optimal Neural Network Structures*

## **CAT ODENDAHL**

*Designing an Improved Artificial Reef-Ball to Mediate Shoreline Erosion*



# PITCH GROUP 5 CONTINUED

## **NINA HUCZKO**

*Multi-Layered Stimuli-Responsive Dynamic Shape Change Device*

## **EMILIE KAROVIC**

*Verification of IRF8 Transcript Isoform Switching Due to CLL-Associated Enhancer SNP*